

Implementation of a National Peer Support Helpline

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# VETS4WARRIORS 1-855-VET-TALK 1-855-838-8255



#### Overview

The Vets4Warriors peer support helpline provides easy access to well trained veteran peers who are prepared to offer supportive, nonattributional conversations. Representing all branches of the military, this team of veteran peers have immediate access to behavioral health clinicians and referrals to local community services, military veteran centers, and military healthcare providers.







#### **Vets4Warriors**

Peer counseling is an effective method to acculturate these selfdevelopment skills without the potential stigma that some Service Members associate with helpseeking behavior. Vets4Warriors will improve awareness and provide access to relevant local resources, while the utilization data can help share and refine current support programs.





#### **VETS**#WARRIORS

24-Hour Peer Support Line

\* \* 1-855-VET-TALK \* \* \* 1-855-838-8255

Toll-Free & Confidential

Services

Tips for Handling Stress Resources

Live Chat Fort Hood

About Us



#### Why Call Us?

We are here to help. Our team of Veteran peers have all served in uniform for the United States Military. We share similar experiences and understand what it means to serve our country in peacetime and in times of increased conflict. The daily stresses of a Service member are unique and we are here to offer an ear to listen and resources in your local community to help alleviate any stressors you may be facing.

We are a confidential peer support service and do not discuss your calls with the military, the VA, or anyone else and, if you choose, you may remain anonymous.

Our deal is to partner with you on your quest and do our best to help you succeed.



















1-855-838-8255

1-855-VET-TALK

Home Services Tips for Handling Stress. Resources Live Chat. Fort Hood-Specific Information. About Us. Privacy Policy Terms of Service





#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Confidentiality Maintained – Anonymity Optional/HIPAA Compliant** 

Crisis Calls Co-Managed with Licensed Clinicians

**MOA** with National Veterans Crisis Line

26 Peer Counselors/6 Clinicians/11 Admin & Support



#### **CURRENT DATA\***

Total Number of Incoming Calls	7,199
Chats	458
Total Number of Outgoing Calls	8,645
Total Number of Follow up Calls	6,687
Website Hits	3,480
Crisis Intervention	979
Transfer to NVCL or Emergency Serv.	24
Emails	376



<sup>\*</sup>As of 13 June 2012

#### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

# Calls from All 54 States and Territories Of Those Providing Information (34%):

➤35% More Than 1 Deployment

#### **Branch of Service**

- ▶14% National Guard
- ►12% Reserves
- >74% Active Duty (39% Active Army)



### **DEMOGRAPHICS** (cont'd)

#### **Conflicts**:

OEF/OIF/OND	46%
<b>Operation Desert Storm</b>	10%
Vietnam	17%
No Combat	19%

#### Rank:

E-5 and below 85%



#### CASE MIX

#### Out of 9,992 Client Contacts:

>61% Routine

≥38% At Risk

>1% Emergent



#### TOP REASONS FOR CALLS

- 1. Peer Support
- 2. Behavioral Health Issues
- 3. General Information
- 4. PTSD
- 5. Relationship Issues



#### TOP PRESENTING ISSUES

- 1. Depression
- 2. Anxiety
- 3. PTSD
- 4. Sleeplessness
- 5. Medical Issues
- 6. Family Issues



#### REFERRALS

- 1. VA Benefits and Entitlements
- 2. Legal Assistance
- 3. Behavioral Health
- 4. Substance Abuse
- 5. Healthcare Resources
- 6. Financial Assistance



#### **SATISFACTION SURVEYS**

# 209 Respondents 98% of responses were positive Some Comments:

- ➤ "Thanks to V4W, we are family, civilians don't understand. Thanks."
- ➤ "I appreciate you being there, they gave much needed support couldn't get anywhere else. Was treated with dignity and pride..."



#### **CASE STUDIES**

AZARNG chat from Afghanistan about financial & relationship stresses (referred by his 1st SGT). Referred to AZ financial counseling, pro bono legal, VA benefits and GI Bill benefits. Re-contact on redeployment.

OHARNG member called with active suicide ideation with a weapon, substance abuse. Police contacted; evaluated in ED and caller refused admission. Agreed to go to the VA for follow up treatment. Caller willing to accept follow up calls.









## **QUESTIONS?**







